



BLM ALASKA FRONTIERS

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News about BLM's National System of Public Lands in Alaska

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Our youngest workers BLM opportunities for a lifetime



Jorfena Daly

Anchorage Field Office partners with Kasuun Elementary School students for Adopt-a-Highway clean-up at 68th Avenue and Elmore Road in Anchorage.

For many young people, their first paid jobs tend to be informal, such as child care and lawn work. As they reach their mid-teens, many work in retail and fast-food restaurants. Some teenagers may hold jobs, such as camp counseling or life guarding, that they will not likely pursue as career fields. After the passage of the 1994 School-to-Work Opportunities Act, there is an increasing emphasis on school- or employer-sponsored work-based learning, and the BLM has continued to offer these opportunities. This year, the President's Youth Initiative and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding has reinvigorated the agency's youth efforts.

This year, BLM-Alaska is employing 241 youth throughout the state. The BLM is hosting these young workers through programs such as the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association, Student Conservation Association, Alaska Job Corps, Chicago Botanic Garden, Youth Restoration Corps, and others. The youth serve as staff assistants, budget analyst trainees, business support trainees, heavy equipment operators, carpenter assistants, cartographic technicians, firefighters, river patrols, field camp cooks, interpretive specialists, archaeology assistants, and invasive weed management interns. One lucky intern is even monitoring reindeer herd ranges in northern Alaska.

—continued on page 2

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The Tangle Lakes Campground entrance road is under renovation this summer. The road will be widened to improve public safety. Please visit the BLM-Alaska website <http://www.blm.gov/ak> for project updates, possible closures, alternative campsites, lodging, and boat launch locations. The BLM is working to ensure that the campground is open during hunting season.

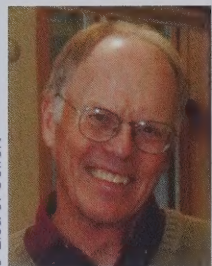
— More ARRA Project Updates on page 6



Campbell Creek Science Center Hosts Radio Celebrity Richard Nelson

KSKA public radio in Anchorage partnered with the Campbell Creek Science Center on May 14 for one of the most popular presentations ever held at the Science Center.

More than 300 people crowded into the Science Center's meeting room to hear anthropologist and writer, Richard Nelson. About 50 more



Richard Nelson

peered through the windows from outside for Nelson's stories and sounds evoking treasures of Alaska's cultural and natural heritage.

Sea lion roars, bird calls, musk

ox, and flapping fish were some of the sounds heard that the host for "Encounters" radio show recorded in the wild. Emphasizing the value of preserving Alaska's natural heritage, Nelson demonstrated his equipment and how he records natural sounds. Nelson's stop at the Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage gave him the opportunity to meet some of his biggest fans and talk about how "Encounters" on Raven Radio in Sitka originated.

Prior to the presentation, the Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center and the Alaska



Richard Nelson speaks to a packed house at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center about how he records sounds in the wild.

Public Telecommunications, Inc. hosted a reception for Nelson. The Friends group also provided refreshments.

Early in his career, Nelson lived for extended periods in Athabaskan, Inupiat, and Yupik villages in Alaska. He wrote *Hunters of the Northern Ice*, *Hunters of the Northern Forests*, *Shadow of the Hunter*, and *The Athabaskans*. Nelson's book *Make Prayers to the Raven*, about the Koyukon people of Alaska's boreal forest, was the basis for a five-part public television

series. "Encounters" is produced with KCAW-FM in Sitka by Lisa Busch, and since January 2004 broadcasts to public radio stations throughout Alaska. The Campbell Creek Science Center program was broadcast on May 20 and May 26 on KSKA and is available as a podcast or audio file from the KSKA website: <http://kska.org/2010/05/20/addressing-alaskans-listening-to-alaska/>

Young Workers —continued from page 1

This is a win-win situation. For the youth, these work experiences encourage future employment with the BLM and instill a strong sense of stewardship in future generations for Alaska's federally managed lands. Best of all, the work experiences are possible career tracks—opportunities for a lifetime.

On June 2, acting State Director Julia Dougan (left) stands with youth worker James Evangelestomp, as U.S. Senator Mark Begich talks about summer youth employment opportunities. Evangelestomp also spoke about his work at the Anchorage Field Office. Many of the youth jobs available in Alaska's National Landscape Conservation System and federal parks, refuges, and other federal programs are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



Teresa McPherson



Joseph Correa

Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Ballast Water Treatment Facility overhauled

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) ballast water treatment facility opened at the Valdez Marine Terminal in 1977. For twenty years it processed nearly nine million gallons each day that came from oil tankers and the terminal. The ballast water treatment turned out to be smelly and released hazardous air emissions as the facility treated the waste water.

After the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and subsequent modifications of international maritime regulations required only double-hulled oil tankers operating in American waters by 2010. Double-hulled tankers do not have the oily ballast water requiring treatment, thus decreasing throughput at the Valdez Marine Terminal ballast water treatment facility to only one million gallons a day.

Such a drastic reduction in oily ballast water, cooler water temperatures, and a need to reduce the hazardous air emissions are forcing major changes to the wastewater treatment facility to keep it functional. The lower throughputs, combined with current technology, allow for system changes that include better containment of air emissions.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, owners of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, expects to complete its comprehensive modifications to the ballast water treatment facility by the end of 2011. These modifications will substantially improve the facility's ability to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants and to better handle other types of wastewater streams.

The BLM has been involved in these changes. When Congress passed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act in 1973, it set the BLM up as the lead federal agency under the Grant of Right-of-Way authorization to ensure overall system integrity, environmental protection, and public safety for TAPS. For oversight of both air and water quality at the Valdez Marine Terminal, the BLM works closely with the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company expects to complete the last of the ballast water treatment facility modification projects in 2011. With its completion, Alyeska will have significantly reduced the amount of hazardous air pollutants.

—Nolan Heath
Nolan_Heath@blm.gov

Three stages to change the facility

- 1. Installation of vapor control:** In 2007, the first project to modify the ballast water treatment facility began with the installation of vapor control for the 90's tanks. The 90's tanks separate the oil from the water by the use of gravity separation. The vapor control reduces emissions of hazardous air pollutants on the 90's tanks. The vapor control went into operation early in 2008.
- 2. Reduce actively dissolved flotation cells and install emissions technology:** During 2008-09, the second stage of the ballast water treatment facility modifications began. This stage included reducing the number of actively dissolved air flotation cells from six to three cells. This stage also included the installation of new enclosed air strippers, two regenerative thermal oxidizers to incinerate emissions, and installation of an upgraded hydrogen peroxide dosing system to treat the influent stream for hydrogen sulfide.
- 3. Install of polymer system, replace of tanks and pipe:** The third stage begins this year. This stage includes the installation of dissolved air flotation cell covers and a new polymer system; replacement of existing steel pressure reduction tanks with fiberglass-reinforced polymer pressure reduction tanks; and replacing sections of piping.

Sourdough Creek Campground offers accessible outdoor adventures

Marnie Graham



Camping in Alaska is a great experience, but when you have special needs, it can sometimes be difficult. Although I enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities, I am dependent on a motorized wheelchair and personal care attendants. As I learned about public lands in Alaska's Copper River Valley, I investigated some of the BLM Glennallen Field Office-managed campgrounds. I quickly discovered that my favorite accessible campground is the BLM's Sourdough Creek Campground at Milepost 147.5 on the Richardson Highway.

The Sourdough Creek Campground accommodates both manual and motorized wheelchairs. The BLM has done well to provide integrated accessible camping and adopting Universal Design principles giving visitors more choices.

The well-packed gravel allows wheels to move easily without getting stuck or spinning out. There are very few bumps or large rocks, so the ride is smooth. There are accessible campsites large enough to accommodate a large van with a lift. All campsites have tent pads and

raised pads covered with grass that are both flat and soft. These pads are raised until they are nearly level with the seat of a wheelchair. There is enough firm and stable clear space surrounding the pads so that it is easy to access each side to stake the tent.

Sourdough Creek Campground also has other accessible facilities. Grills, picnic tables, fire rings, water, and restrooms are near the accessible campsites. Some of the fire rings have a higher grill, making the reach-down shorter, although the grill is heavy to lift. The picnic tables are extra long at the ends, allowing wheelchairs to slide effortlessly underneath them. All outhouses are big enough for wheelchairs and have grab bars, although the toilets are of an average height. A spigot for potable water can be reached with little difficulty. The bear-proof trash cans are high and fairly easy to reach and to open. The campground boat launch ramp juts into the Gulkana River. Adjacent to the boat launch, there is a picnic area and a gazebo with good views of the river and accessible tables.

—continued on page 5

Marnie Graham



Marnie Graham

(Top) Sourdough Creek Campground accessible overlook on the Gulkana River. (Left) Accessible campsites are roomy and clearly marked. (Right) Fishing fingers provide prime fishing and a great view at the mouth of Sourdough Creek.

Accessibility

—continued from page 4

For those who like to fish, there are fishing fingers near the mouth of Sourdough Creek. The fishing fingers provide three separate paved platforms with bars to lean on or to rest your arms if you are fishing or taking photos. Dogs are welcome in the campground, but even service dogs will need to be on a leash or restrained.

The campground's interpretive trail passes through and around the campground. Although most of the trail is inaccessible to wheelchairs, the accessible section has many interesting interpretive signs and allows you to experience nature while remaining comfortable.



Marnie Graham

Sourdough Creek Campground Trail is scenic and informative for all visitors.

The friendly volunteer campground hosts are ready to help you with any questions you may have. While people with disabilities are individuals with unique preferences and needs, I believe that this campground is a great resource. By trying to meet the needs of its campers, the BLM encourages everyone to experience camping in Alaska's great outdoors.

— Sheila Sine
Sheila_Sine@blm.gov

Editor's Note: You can find a map and more information about BLM-Alaska campgrounds at: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/recreation.html>



This summer, the BLM is conducting a remediation investigation project on the abandoned Red Devil Mine, a cinnabar mine and mercury production facility on the Kuskokwim River. To prepare for the project, BLM Anchorage Field Office staff met with interested residents, tribes, cities, Alaska Native corporations, and community organizations at meetings in Akiachak, Akiak, Crooked Creek, Georgetown, Kwethluk, Lime Village, Lower Kalskag, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Tuluksak, and Stony River.

People attending the spring meetings had an opportunity to discuss the projects, issues, concerns, provide written comments, and share information about subsistence uses near the mine with the BLM. While interest levels and concern about the mine varied at the different villages, the BLM staff heard one message very clearly – all have a strong desire to protect the Kuskokwim River fisheries as a critical subsistence resource for their communities.

“We tried to be sensitive to the needs of communities by meeting with them at a time that was best for them, rather than [for] the BLM,” Anchorage Field Manager Jim Fincher explains. “We also left it to the discretion of the tribal councils to decide whether to open the consultations to city or corporation officials. Most were joint meetings, but the decision was made by the councils.”



Teresa McPherson

Residents of Stony River attend a tribal consultation/community meeting on April 28, 2010, to talk about the Red Devil Mine environmental projects.

For more information about the environmental projects at the Red Devil Mine, visit www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado or contact the Anchorage Field Office at 907-267-1246 or 800-478-1263. You can also find a story about the Red Devil Mine projects in *Frontiers* combined Fall 2009/Winter 2010 Issue 108.

—Teresa McPherson
contributed to this story
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American Recovery &

ALASKA STIMULUS PROJECT

Anchorage Field Office

The Anchorage Field Office has six projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) this summer.

Last fall, field office staff worked with the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance to hire local carpenters to build a public safety cabin at Big Yetna near Shageluk. The BLM then partnered with the City of Shageluk to maintain the shelter cabin for inter-village travel by local residents and other users of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The Big Yetna shelter cabin is the prototype for four similar public safety cabins to be built along the Iditarod Trail this summer using ARRA funds.

Other ARRA-funded projects through the field office include pedestrian bridge replacement, riparian restoration, trail resurfacing, and trailhead parking improvements at Campbell Tract; an invasive plant inventory and removal project at Salmon Lake and along a portion of the Unalakleet River; and fuel spill investigation and contaminated soil remediation at Red Devil Mine.



Jorjena Daly

(Left to right) BLM Recreation Technician Andy Welsh, James Evangelestomp, Southeast Alaska Guidance Association (SAGA) Alaska Job Corps volunteer, BLM volunteer Isaac Blosser, BLM maintenance worker Nathan Rathbun (in blue), and Paul Eilers SAGA Job Corps volunteer doing culvert bridge work on the Old Rondy Trail at Campbell Tract as part of the recreation trail ARRA project work.

Glennallen Field Office

The Glennallen Field Office has two ARRA projects this summer. The first will renovate the current Tangle Lakes Campground entrance road. The road to this popular campground needs resurfacing, drainage improvement, and widening of two 500-foot sections to eliminate head-on driving encounters in a curved section of the road.



Recreation planner Cory Larson examines trail braiding around a bog on the Top of the World Trail. The ARRA project will repair the trail.

The second ARRA project addresses severe trail braiding and impacts to vegetation and riparian areas along the Top of the World Trail. This trail is popular with recreation and subsistence users for accessing caribou and moose populations and the Delta Wild and Scenic River corridor. A high school Student Conservation Association crew will reroute portions of the trail onto suitable soils and slopes, while avoiding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Eastern Interior Field Office

The Fortymile region is benefitting from a host of ARRA projects. Campers at two BLM campgrounds will enjoy water from new wells. Other projects will upgrade waysides and river access parking areas along the Taylor Highway by replacing gravel in eroded areas and resurfacing. The Lost Chicken Dredge Trail trailhead and parking area will be reconfigured so that visitors no longer cross the highway on a curve with limited visibility. At historic Fort Egbert in Eagle, a project will improve the wet areas of the trail to the hospital ruins to prevent erosion, and preserve the natural habitat and historic sites.

In the White Mountains National Recreation Area, an ARRA project will reroute sections of the Summit Trail, to make it more sustainable.

Find out more at <http://www.blm.gov>

Reinvestment Act Update



BLM employees should spend far less time repairing the Nome Creek road after a contractor installs additional culverts and raises the roadbed at two problematic creek crossings. The ARRA project will improve access for visitors to the Ophir Creek Campground, Table Top Mountain Trail, and Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River.

At Nome Creek, the BLM will plant and fertilize vegetation on reclaimed sections of the heavily mined stream. Projects will improve the Nome Creek Road at two stream crossings where spring breakup has repeatedly caused erosion. Also on Nome Creek, a new cabin will provide living quarters and secure storage for BLM employees maintaining nearby trails and campgrounds.

Farther up the Steese Highway, an ARRA project will provide several more miles of boardwalk through wet areas on the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail. Visitors to one end of this 27-mile-long trail at Twelvemile Summit will soon have an outhouse at their disposal. The new facility is one of five vault toilets to be installed along the Steese Highway this summer. South of the Steese Highway, stream rehabilitation work will continue on mined sections of Harrison Creek, a tributary to Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River.

Central Yukon Field Office

The Central Yukon Field Office is partway through a series of meetings in Fairbanks, Allakaket, Wiseman and Koyukuk to garner public comments about the Integrated Invasive Plant Strategic Plan now being developed for the Dalton Management Area. This ARRA-funded plan will provide a strategy for the control, monitoring, prevention, and management of invasive plants, which are already expanding northward along the Dalton Highway (see BLM-Alaska *Frontiers* Issue 104 Fall 2008 for Invasive Weeds story and photos). Twenty-eight non-native invasive plant species are already identified on lands along or near the highway, and serious economic and ecological harm is predicted if these species are left to expand their range.

Another ARRA project involving public lands along the Dalton Highway will analyze GPS and radio telemetry data collected over many years by wildlife biologists tracking Dall sheep, caribou, and moose. A geographic information system will combine the data and information from many agencies. Researchers hope to learn more about when and why these species move between different areas and habitat types.

Inventorying abandoned mine lands on public lands near Fairbanks will help to identify hazards and associated historic sites. This work will allow the BLM to track mine land hazards, rank hazard severity, and schedule any necessary remediation. The project will continue in the Upper Koyukuk (Coldfoot/Wiseman), Circle/Central area, and the Fortymile area in 2011 and 2012.

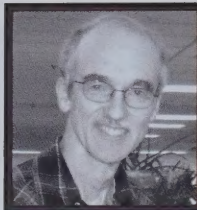


This sign warns visitors of a mining hazard in a residential neighborhood near Fairbanks.

In northwestern Alaska, work continues on an ARRA trail mapping project that covers an area the size of the state of Washington. The Northwest Arctic Borough and Koyuk residents mapped trails this spring and have already provided the BLM with GPS data for 925 miles of trail. The trail information they are collecting will help the BLM with future management of travel routes and will be placed on a website for search and rescue crews or village travelers to use. Traditional travel routes are also being documented by interviewing local elders. The trails will be marked with 9,000 wooden tripod stakes to make winter travel safer.

BLM's office and bunkhouse in Kotzebue will soon have new metal roofing and siding, and outdated appliances will be replaced with newer, energy-efficient models.

—Teresa McPherson, Marnie Graham, and Craig McCaa
contributed to this article.



Journey into Alaska's Past

with BLM-Alaska Archaeologist Robert King

Alaska's National Landscape Conservation System has its own special 100-year history

In June 2000, President William Jefferson Clinton established a new category of land designation within the BLM to manage lands for conservation purposes. This designation is called the National Landscape Conservation System or NLCS. Today's National Landscape Conservation System includes over 886 federally recognized areas and about 27 million acres of public lands (roughly equal to the size of the state of Tennessee).

In Alaska, the National Landscape Conservation System includes nine areas encompassing around two million acres of land. These areas in Alaska include the Steese National Conservation Area; six Wild and Scenic Rivers: Beaver, Birch, Delta, Gulkana, Fortymile and Unalakleet; the Central Arctic Wilderness Study Area; and the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

When the National Landscape Conservation System began in 2000, it had its own history. For us in Alaska, the system's origin has a little known tie-in to an event that occurred 100 years ago. On Mar. 23, 1910, President William Howard Taft signed legislation creating Alaska's first National Monument in Sitka—the "Sitka National Historical Park." Taft's action was authorized by the 1906 Antiquities Act signed into law by his predecessor, President Theodore Roosevelt. This first federal law for broad historic preservation in the United States allowed presidents to withdraw public lands containing historic sites (and certain other values) and designate them as "National Monuments." Their designation helped protect their special features for the benefit of the American people. In effect, the 1906 Antiquities Act created an early type



President Harding (7th from left, in the suit by the totem pole) and future president **Herbert Hoover** (4th from left, holding his cap) visit the Sitka National Historical Park in the early 1920s.

of national conservation system with its first Alaskan unit at Sitka.

With the National Monument's creation, a new management strategy soon followed that, for the first time, included a proactive conservation ethic. Taft's action in 1910 placed new responsibilities on BLM's "ancestor" agency, the General Land Office, from which the BLM was created in 1946. For the first time in Alaska, starting in 1910, the General Land Office was tasked to manage a small historic park at Sitka—both for its historic values and its public recreational use.

It is important to realize that before 1910 in Alaska, the General Land Office's major functions were to dispose of public lands through land sales and by issuing patents to homesteads and mineral claims. At this time the land office was not in the business of retaining lands and managing them for their historic values or for recreation. The

Antiquities Act in 1906 changed that. Starting in 1910 in Alaska, the General Land Office was given a new type of land management responsibility for a type of early conservation unit, National Monuments. Just 10 years ago, this assigning of new management responsibilities had its parallel when the BLM, the General Land Office's "descendant," was given the National Landscape Conservation System—a new land management designation, to help preserve and protect some of America's best lands and waters under the BLM's authority. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System, we can also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first type of Alaskan "conservation" system in Alaska—one that started with a small park at Sitka!

—Robert King
Robert_King@blm.gov

Courtesy of Robert King

A Celebration!

National Public Lands Day 2010

On June 19, the BLM Glennallen Field Office hosted a National Public Lands Day/National Landscape Conservation System tenth anniversary event at the BLM Paxson Lake Campground, Mile 175 of the Richardson Highway.

Field staff and 50 volunteers removed an aging boardwalk, brushed out a water-line maintenance area, and planted native seeds and trees. After the work, the group enjoyed a free barbecue, an ATV safety demonstration, and the release of a rescued bald eagle into the wild by the Alaska Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center. The center also brought live birds, including a great gray owl, great horned owl, Harlen's hawk, rough-legged hawk, merlin falcon, and raven.

— Marnie Graham
Marnie_Graham@blm.gov



Shelby Anderson



Shelby Anderson

(Above) National Public Lands Day volunteers eagerly await the release of a bald eagle back into the wild by the Alaska Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center and BLM's Tamara Lozano.
(Below) Bald eagle released!



Click it!

A BLM resource
at your fingertips

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/>

Have you checked out the BLM-Alaska webpage lately? Did you know you can look up easement maps, comment on what's important to you on BLM-managed public lands, pull up recreation guides and brochures, learn how to file a mining claim, about jobs and volunteer opportunities, and so much more?

Find a computer and click these links:

Directory (click 'Contact Us' and 'Directory'). New online employee directory lists BLM-Alaska employees and how to contact them.

Recreation (click 'What We Do' and 'Recreation'). Find where to go, what to do, and what you need to know.

Land Use Planning (click 'What We Do' and 'Planning'). Read available documents online, comment on areas or activities, check planning schedules, and more.

Information Center (click 'Information Center' and what you want). Learn about the BLM, jobs, land records, laws-regulations-policies, careers, newsroom, online services, photo library, general publications (including our main brochures and technical reports for download), public room (BLM Public Information Center), ARLIS (Alaska Resources Library Information Systems), and the Spatial Data Management System (see below).



Spatial Data Management System (click 'Information Center' and 'Spatial Data Management System'). What is a SDMS? Think managing data about public lands. This site provides access to online BLM-Alaska land record documents, reports, and GIS data. It includes:

- Alaska Case Reports – (Native, state and private land conveyance cases, leases, permits, federal mining claims, easements, and more).
- Land and Resources map interface – portrays lands and natural resources in Alaska, data download services, access to land parcel data, documents and case reports.
- Conveyance documents – scanned images of BLM Alaska land conveyance documents since 1965.
- Master title plats, survey plats, and ANCSA 17(b) easement maps.



FRONTIERS *Flashes*

News from around Alaska

Wildlife biologist named Recovery Champion

Craig McCaa



Debbie Nigro, wildlife biologist in the Arctic Field Office, is one of two Alaska U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Champions. The USFWS selected Debbie for her commitment to spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders recovery on Alaska's North Slope, outstanding outreach and education efforts, and ongoing collaborative research. The second Alaska awardee is USFWS Alaska Region Marine

Mammals biologist Douglas Burns. The Alaska winners are among 18 honorees nationwide from the USFWS and their partners for their work advancing the recovery of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals in the United States.

BLM-Alaska hosts volunteer PolarTREC teacher at Raven Bluff archaeology site

Karl Horeis



This summer the Central Yukon Field Office is hosting teacher Karl Horeis from the Foothills Academy of Wheat Ridge, CO, at the Raven Bluff archaeology site near Kivalina. His visit is part of the National Science Foundation's Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating in the Arctic and Antarctica (PolarTREC) program that promotes volunteer K-12 teacher opportunities in polar research as a pathway to

improve science education. Horeis is sharing his archaeological experiences with communities and students nationally through an online journal and other outreach activities. Check out the BLM's Raven Bluff archaeology site in the Fall 2009/Winter 2010 combined issue of *BLM-Alaska Frontiers*.

Office of Pipeline Monitoring moves

Effective Monday, June 28, the Office of Pipeline Monitoring has moved to midtown Anchorage. The new phone and address are:

BLM Office of Pipeline Monitoring
188 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503-3984
907-271-1309

The office works with the State of Alaska and other federal agencies to monitor environmental protection, pipeline system integrity, public and worker safety, and to ensure regulatory compliance for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

New Iditarod History Mystery

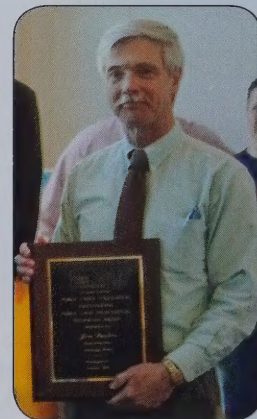
BLM's archaeological, historical and fossil resources offer almost limitless opportunities to America's teachers. BLM-Alaska archaeologist Robert King, State Writer-Editor Karen Laubenstein, and Iditarod National Historic Trail centennial coordinator Kevin Keeler are uncovering the newest History Mystery for the BLM national education web pages. Highlighting unsolved historical mysteries on the Iditarod National Historic Trail, the project will involve a magazine-style publication and interactive online youth pages. The Iditarod project joins other History Mysteries on Butch and Sundance, the First Americans, Ghost Towns, Mysterious Lighthouses and Light Beacons, and the newly released Mystery of the Pony Express. The Iditarod mysteries will be available later this fall. http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/res/Education_in_BLM/Learning_Landscapes/For_Kids/History_Mystery.html.

Oil and gas lease sale for NPR-A

BLM-Alaska will hold a National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) oil and gas lease sale beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2010. The agency is offering a competitive sealed bid process for leasing tracts in the Northeast Planning Area. From five prior sales, the BLM has received over \$253 million in bids, with the State of Alaska receiving 50 percent of the revenue from NPR-A bonus bids, annual rentals, and royalties. There are presently 312 leases covering about three million acres in the NPR-A. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates there are 9.3 bbls of mean technically recoverable oil and 59.7 tcf of mean technically recoverable natural gas in the NPR-A. To view a map of the tracts, go to <http://www.blm.gov/ak>. You can also find new draft guidance for onshore oil and gas leasing.

Ducker wins Professional Technician Award

Jim Ducker, environmental program analyst in the BLM Alaska State Office, is the Public Lands Foundation's Professional Technician award winner for 2009. The award recognizes Jim's role as project lead on the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska supplemental environmental impact statement. His work addresses global climate change, leasing in sensitive areas, public health, and rural Alaska subsistence issues. The award also recognizes Jim's career accomplishments in energy issues, collaboration, and stakeholder relationship building.



Matt Christenson



Alaska Fire Service celebrates Alaska Arbor Day

On May 17, an enthusiastic group of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from Fort Wainwright planted 10 trees and 20 shrubs on the west side of the Alaska Fire Service headquarters building, replacing a number of mature spruce trees that were removed for safety reasons. Following the planting, the Scouts toured the facility. Scout leaders and family members assisted with the planting.

Tissue sampling project begins on Kuskokwim River

BLM is conducting a comprehensive biological monitoring program on the Kuskokwim River near the Red Devil Mine (RDM) site this summer. The new monitoring program is testing for background levels of mercury and other metals in aquatic environments on the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries within 40 miles of the Red Devil Mine site. The Red Devil Mine was the largest cinnabar mine in Alaska from 1939 until 1971 and a world-class producer of mercury. The first sampling occurred June 14-24, with a second sampling scheduled for Aug. 16-27. The BLM team members are sampling tissues across the trophic spectrum—from low level benthic macroinvertebrates to top level predatory fish species. The BLM is coordinating the project with the State of Alaska, U. S. Geological Survey, the Kuskokwim Native Association, and the Kuskokwim Corporation.



Matt Varner

BLM Biologist Matt Varner (left), Jason Post (red gloves), and Clauss Kwhn-Hansen (in back) prepare to electro fish in an unnamed tributary on the Kuskowim.



Vanessa Rathbun

Mother and daughter help to improve a butterfly garden during National Trails Day at the Campbell Creek Science Center.

National Trails Day at Campbell Tract

On June 5, more than 100 volunteers worked to improve trails and walkways, add plants to the butterfly garden, maintain the grounds, fix fences, improve disability access, pull weeds, and clean-up trash at the 17th National Trails Day held throughout the 730-acre Campbell Tract and adjoining Municipality of Anchorage's Far North Bicentennial Park. Following the work, volunteers were treated to a pizza and cookies luncheon sponsored by the Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center, received t-shirts and door prizes from partner REI, and practiced bear safety with inert bear spray. The Bird Treatment and Learning Center (Bird TLC) gave a presentation on great-horned owls, followed by the release of a rehabilitated owl. The event is also a 'Take Pride' project. After the Municipality of Anchorage became a "Take Pride in America City" in 2005, the Anchorage Field Office has jointly co-sponsored successful Take Pride events such as this one with the Municipality each year.



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BLM-ALASKA FRONTIERS... **From the Managing Editor**



Marnie Graham

National Public Lands Day volunteers give a big thumbs-up to N-L-C-S!

We have an exciting issue for you and encourage you to take the stories and resources further. Go to our website <http://www.blm.gov/ak> and look at all we have to offer. This year is the 10th anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System, and many of our annual events are including activities to commemorate that milestone. Most important is that the anniversary celebrates these wonderful lands and resources that we are working to manage for all the many uses and people like yourselves to experience today and for future generations.

— Karen J. Laubenstein
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BLM-Alaska Frontiers

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